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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo: draft resolution

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, 47/52 G and 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 H and 48/75 J of 16 December 1993 and 49/75 G of 15 December 1994,

Considering that the circulation of massive quantities of small arms throughout the world impedes development and is a source of increased insecurity,

Considering also that the illicit international transfer of small arms and their accumulation in many countries constitute a threat to the populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Basing itself on the statement of the Secretary-General relating to the request of Mali concerning United Nations assistance for the collection of small arms,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the insecurity and banditry linked to the illicit circulation of small arms in Mali and the other affected States of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion,

Taking note of the first conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Taking note also of the interest shown by other States of the subregion in receiving the United Nations Advisory Mission,

Noting the actions taken and those recommended at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers and Bamako to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

1. Welcomes the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion;

2. Also welcomes the action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of this initiative in the context of resolution 40/151 H of 16 December 1985;

3. Thanks the Governments concerned in the subregion for the substantial support that they have given to the United Nations advisory missions and welcomes the declared readiness of other States to receive the Mission;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide, within the limits of existing resources the requisite assistance for the implementation in the countries concerned of the relevant recommendations contained in the report of these advisory missions;

5. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States which so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

6. Invites Member States to implement national control measures in order to check the illicit circulation of small arms, in particular by curbing the illegal export of such arms;

7. Also invites the international community to give appropriate support to the efforts made by the affected countries to suppress the illicit circulation of small arms, which is likely to hamper their development;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to examine the issue and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.